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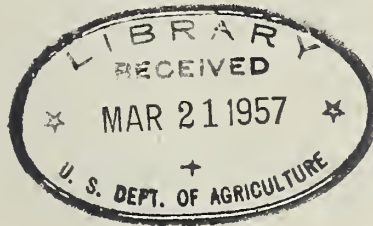
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9/11/56

3 GUIDE TO AGRICULTURE, U.S.A.

(Working Title); (see 36)

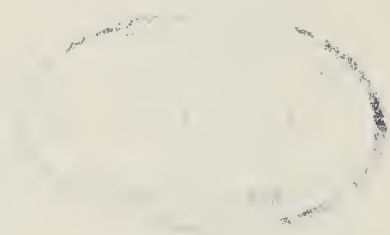


A

W I D E O P E N

L A N D

(Suggested Title) (see 36)



OPEN WITH a montage to picture the variety of the American landscape. Interweave spectacular live-action aerial and panoramic shots with dynamically-designed mapwork for an overview of the U.S.A. in some of its most startling geographical contrasts to match narration.

American earth has many faces. In the United States, a single day's travel by air may bring into view practically every variety of topography, soil, climate, crop, mineral and activity that is to be found anywhere in the world. ---

Hundred degree differences in temperature between one place and another and in the same place at different seasons. . .

This portion of the North American continent stretches north and south across the entire North Temperate Zone. . . East and west it extends across four time zones.

Along the Atlantic coast and highlands, varied soils watered by warm, humid air masses caught by the Appalachian Mountains in their westward drift. . .

In the great valley beyond, rich, black earth watered by the Mississippi.

To the south, a subtropical fringe. . .

To the north, a region of severe winters.

Further west, an inland empire -- bread-basket of the United States -- of treeless plains and rangeland rising to the Continental Divide. . . And beyond that, the land shelving off to the Pacific where the Coastal Range and the Sierra Nevadas catch the moisture of the air masses drifting east and the desert has been made rich by irrigation. . .

. . . a wide open land.

Many climates. . .many soils. . .many crops.

What the land grows shapes the people who work it and live by it. . .For each crop a different type of farming. . .For each type of farming, differences in the way of living.

Now feature only the northeastern section of the map, including a section of the midwest around the Great Lakes.

Up here - in a wide section of the northeast extending from the coast to the Great Lakes - plenty of rainfall. . .Heavily wooded. . . Grass grows fast. . .Good grass makes good cattle. And where grass grows so will cultivated crops:-vegetables, fruits, small grains.

Live-action scenes then present a sequence on the dairy farmer of the northeast who also grows supplementary, diversified truck crops under dry land farming. First, the farmstead, neat but businesslike, with its compact grouping of buildings not too far from the house.

(Note still photo in publication, Guide to Agriculture, U.S.A., page 45)

How does this farmer live and work?

The farmer is then seen with helpers in typical dairying farm activities:- - -Driving a good herd into the milking parlor. . .Milking with machines. . .Cooling the milk. . .Cleaning the equipment. . . Tending an ailing cow or calf. . .Spreading manure on grassland. . . Plowing under green manure. . .Cutting hay. . .Putting up silage. . . Checking farm machinery with the county agent.

He owns his farm, has a heavy investment in land, livestock, buildings and machinery, but his standard of living is high.

Severe winters require weather-proof storage facilities. In this part of the country, the farmer takes pride in well-kept buildings.

The demands of his dairy cattle keep him and his family busy every day throughout the year. One of the hardest-working farmers in the nation, besides keeping his herd productive he must keep it free of disease, manage it in relation to his feed supply and the market.

He usually practices soil conservation to preserve and enrich his soil for his holdings are not extensive. He tends to be scientifically-minded and keep up with developments in the livestock industry. Many sons of dairy farmers go to agricultural colleges.

He may also have a diversified garden and grow some small grains for feed for his stock.

On the way from the barn to the house, the farmer and the county agent pass a vegetable garden, or potato or cabbage field and approach a poultry house near the farmhouse. The farmer's wife and perhaps a child or two come out of the poultry house and join them. All proceed to the farmhouse where the county agent takes his leave of the family.

What part do the dairy farmer's wife and children play in farm life?

In the kitchen of the farmhouse, the wife shows the farmer some fruits or vegetables she has been canning or freezing. A daughter is cleaning up. A son is fixing something.

They seldom perform heavy outdoor work. The wife takes care of the house -- cleaning, cooking, preserving foods and sewing. All help with chores.

The family car is next seen pulling up to a farm supply store. The father gets out of the car, goes into the store as the car drives on. Rest of the family gets out in front of a schoolhouse, goes in to a meeting. Street scene is set in the trading center of an agricultural community.

Dairy farms are around every large town and city -- usually not too far from them since dairy products are so perishable and need to reach their market speedily.

The business and social life of the family are usually carried on within a short distance of the farm because they cannot miss morning and evening chores in attending to the dairy cattle.

Towns in this region tend to be stable because of diversified activities.

Feature the cotton belt on the original map.

Down here -- the land of cotton, sometimes called the cotton belt -- a long growing season and the nature of the crop create a quite different picture of farm life.

Live action scenes then present a sequence on the life and work of cotton growers and workers:-- --Medium-sized home of a cotton farmer. The farmer planting cotton. . .Farmer, wife and children hoeing cotton partly up. . .Same family picking cotton. . .Huge cotton field as a truckload of negroes is driven up. . .

Similar field with large number of negroes picking cotton by hand (varied angles LS, MS and CS). . . Cotton picking machines at work.

Cotton farming - particularly in the eastern end of the cotton belt - has traditionally been carried on by hand labor.

On the small and medium farms the whole family helps with planting, hoeing and picking.

On large plantations these operations may be performed by tenant farmers who pay part of their rent in crops or by hired farm workers transported daily by trucks from nearby towns.

Mechanization has increased with the invention of the cotton picker - especially on large farms and on the level tracts toward the west.

A sharecropper and his family "set" on the porch of their poorer home. A child rides a bicycle around the yard. The house is unpainted but not dilapidated. (See still photo A, page 39, in the publication, Guide to Agriculture, U.S.A.)

The work of the farmer who grows only cotton is highly seasonal. In the late summer and winter there is little to do and he has considerable leisure.

Well-composed studies of a white religious revival meeting and a negro barbecue or fish fry.

There is much visiting. Religious meetings are popular in this region and neighbors from miles around gather for outdoor picnics (barbecues).

Local cotton sale.

Many of the farmers get their cotton money only at harvesttime when there is a general paying up of debts.

A small southern fair.

After the cotton has been sold, fairs and carnivals are held -- as they are the world over -- to celebrate.

At a farm similar to the medium-sized one shown earlier, a farmer drives out of the farmyard in his car -- is then picked up driving into a parking lot of a large textile mill.

More and more of these farmers work off the farms in factories like these.

Deep erosion gullies.

In the old days when this was the only crop -- raised again and again on the same land -- serious erosion set in and much of the soil was lost. Now the soil is being saved by conservation practices. . .

Pasture land shows grass growing over former gullies. Cows graze on it.

Gullies are being healed by grass. . . Livestock is introduced to eat the grass. . . Other crops are being raised in rotations.

Cotton field adjoining field of alfalfa or soybeans. Long shot of southern farm with diversified agriculture.

This is the fastest changing farming area in the United States, and the standard of living rises as the farmer understands what it takes to produce a crop year after year from the soil with which nature has endowed him.

Feature the corn belt on the original map. Interweave or superimpose shots of the Appalachian barrier at Harper's Ferry or the Mohawk River Valley or Delaware WaterGap entries to the west. Film mountains as a formidable barrier then travel through gaps to valleys beyond.

We follow the settlers to the corn belt. For generations these mountains held the people who tried to make something of this land to the Atlantic coastal plain.

When at last they penetrated the passes and gaps a land beyond promise awaited their hand — level land. . . abundant rainfall . . . deep, rich soil which would grow almost anything.

Here, the corn. . . here, the livestock which thrive on the corn — — —

Live action scenes then present a sequence on the life and work of a farm family in the corn belt. First, an aerial shot of the mosaic-like landscape characteristic of the region, coming down low to an individual farm. Then from the ground, the farmstead surrounded by growing corn. (Buildings similar to still photo in Guide to Agriculture, U.S.A. page 40)

The farms are generally larger than those in the east and south.

More machinery is used than in any other type of farming in the United States. Much of this corn is never touched by hand.

Corn is shown being planted, cultivated, harvested and shelled by machinery. Cornstalks are cut up and put into a silo by machinery.

We take a walk with the farmer for various views of his farm. Before the walk, he feeds shelled corn to beef cattle, then we follow him to see hogs and poultry also eating corn. We see a field of soybeans and a field of winter wheat. In the background, beyond one of these fields, sheep graze in a pasture.

Since corn takes from the soil without giving to it, the farmer generally rotates with soil-building crops and other feed.

The farmer receives a truckload of cattle noticeably thinner than those we have seen on his farm. He drives a truckload of unshelled corn to a grain elevator and starts unloading it.

Nearly all of the corn grown in this section is consumed by livestock.

Some of the farmers here take cattle shipped in from the range land further west and specialize in fattening them up for market. Crops which are not needed for feed are sold for cash.

He works hard throughout the year -- with particularly long workdays in spring, early summer and fall.

In the less busy seasons such as late summer and in the winter he has time to get around the community and compare notes with other farmers.

Show the family at an auction or meeting of a farm organization.

The auction is a favorite country institution. Bargains in land, buildings, furniture, machinery or livestock may be picked up by the highest bidder.

Inside the farmhouse, the farmer's wife places a piece of furniture she has bought at the auction. Feature the plain but comfortable interior of a cornbelt farmhouse.

As in the northeast, the main business of the farmer's wife is running the house.

Family meal.

Cornbelt farmers are the most prosperous in the nation. While their well-being depends upon the market price of meat, their diversified activities enable them to weather poor times and their communities enjoy enduring economic prosperity.

Street scene of a trading center in a midwestern agricultural community followed by a short series of close shots of merchants' signs with names showing the European origins of the merchants.

While this region has been settled by people from all over the world, their descendants now consider this the most typically "American" area of the United States.

Feature the Great Plains area of the map. Follow with live action scenes of typical farming scenes in this region. — The farmstead has few or no buildings other than the dwelling. . . A tree windbreak is being planted. . . Wheat is being sown and/or harvested. . . The giant

combines race down the highway. . . Multiple systems of machinery are seen in operation over the seemingly endless fields. . . Close shots of stubble mulch tillage. . . Wheat being hauled to grain elevators by truck and railroad. . . Filling the elevators. . . Reporting the crop. . . Stock market on wheat. . . Feature particularly the treeless, prairie atmosphere of the Great Plains.

Further west, the Great Plains, the prairie -- named by the French -- once called the "Great American Desert." No trees except those planted by man. It was thought crops would not grow here. But even with low rainfall grass has always grown here.

This is the wheat region -- the bread basket of the United States.

The farms are larger here -- the people widely scattered.

The wheat farmer is engaged in a constant gamble against the weather. He risks losing everything when there are long periods of drought, but he can make a fortune when conditions are good.

Some of the largest machines in the country are used to work the great tracts of land. The farmer does not always own them. In many cases contractors go about the country renting their services and equipment.

Unusual skill and judgment are required to work this land. Every effort must be bent to conserve moisture. Summer fallow helps but also leaves the soil exposed to wind. Conservation measures must be taken to keep the soil from being blown away in dust storms.

The farmer must try to plan his planting and harvesting activities on a precise schedule to avoid times of wind and hail.

Before planting he must make sure the threat of the Hessian fly has passed. The grasshoppers he must take when they come.

The family comes out of the farmhouse and we get a good portrait of the wife looking over the landscape with satisfaction just before getting in the automobile. They drive out into the distance over a typical long straight western highway. We pick them up again in town at a church supper.

The people of the wheat country find the windswept spaces satisfying.

Except for the busy periods at seeding and harvest time, families here live in a leisurely fashion.

There is no distinction between town and country people, for the fortunes of both rise and fall with the wheat crop. The prosperity of the towns fluctuates with yields, prices and farm incomes.

Most live on the farms they work, but some move into town to be near schools and the men go by automobile to work on the farms. Many move into town when they retire.

These people have great faith in themselves and like to work out their problems with each other rather than depend upon leaders.

Feature the intermountain, range-livestock area of the west on the original map.

Moving still further west, along the course followed by the people who settled this country, we come to a region made famous by the cowboy.

Open a sequence on typical activities of a cattle rancher with a sweeping vista of range. Cattle are being driven by men on horseback. High mountains in the background. (See photo in Guide to Agriculture, U.S.A., page 43, for type of landscape.)

This area of high plateaus and mountains lies in a band from the northern to the southern border of the United States. Too high, dry and rough for other agricultural uses, this range land furnishes good grazing for cattle and sheep.

Long shot of a ranch with range stretching away in all directions.

The farms and ranches out here are so large that the land is measured in square miles instead of acres. The houses are far apart. . .

Neighbors drive up for a visit. We see the interior of the ranch house as the rancher's wife takes the visiting woman inside. The rancher's son or daughter shows visiting children a pet. The rancher shows the visiting man newly acquired livestock or a new piece of equipment.

. . .but farm families are friendly and sociable and visit each other frequently.
Normally, living is leisurely. . .

A series of scenes shows the rancher's work: — Rounding up cattle. . . Separating out the calves from their mothers for branding. . .Dipping cattle against insect pests. . .Teen-age son and daughter inspect a stretch of fence on horseback. The rancher's wife checks a watering place. . .Mother and children come together and find a sick calf. Children stay with the sick animal as the mother rides off to notify the rancher.

. . .but at certain times the whole family takes an active part in the ranchwork. Calves have to be branded. Cattle have to be dipped to prevent diseases carried by insect pests. Fences and watering places have to be examined, sick animals cared for.

Sheep are docked and sheared, then loaded onto trucks. The country is flat here. The sheep are unloaded from the truck and driven into mountain pasture. A rancher supervises the operation. As dogs drive the sheep, the sheep herder follows driving a jeep hauling the small "covered wagon" he will live in.

Sheep must be docked and sheared. In some places the sheep must be moved to different pastures at different seasons: - As the desert range grazed during the winter dries up, the sheep are driven or transported to higher regions until they reach alpine meadows in the late summer. They are brought down again in the fall. The rancher usually hires a sheep herder to stay with the flocks. Much of this range is owned by the Government which grants grazing privileges for a reasonable fee.

Haying or forage harvesting scene on the first ranch of this sequence.

Many ranchers grow forage crops for winter feeding of their livestock, but buy most of their own food.

Street scene in a modern western town in the range country.

Such are real westerners in a real western town -- a thriving, modern community where ranching is a serious business and a major enterprise in the agricultural economy of the United States. You see big hats and cowboy boots -- both very practical in this climate -- but little else that resembles "the wild west" of fiction and movie thrillers.

Feature the far west on the map -- the rich valleys of California.

Now we move over the final mountain barriers to the man-made farm country of the far west -- the desert valleys turned into gardens by irrigation -- the Salinas, San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys.

Live action shots show the "big agriculture" in the vineyards, orchards and extensive fields of beets, celery, carrots, tomatoes, beans, corn and peas. Large masses of migrant workers swarm over the fields hoeing, thinning, harvesting. Close shots show many different national origins among them. Some irrigating should be shown. Special machinery where used. All scenes should suggest plenty and variety in crops. Good housing for workers. We note the absence of the farmhouse. Where crops are frozen, canned or packaged in the field, show some of this activity.

Here is perhaps the most intensive farming in the United States.

The Mediterranean climate has attracted farmers from the other American states and from all over the world.

The tendency is to specialize in one or two crops (Name them to match picture) because each of these requires specialized skill in the techniques of production, processing and marketing.

The farms are organized like businesses and have been called "factories in the field."

The crops have a high value per acre and require large amounts of labor, fertilizer and supplies and special packing facilities. They are shipped to every part of the United States.

In contrast to farm living elsewhere in the United States, few farm owners here live on the farms. Most of the large operators and many of the small ones live in town.

Except for the daily hours he spends on the farm, his life in most respects is the same as the city dweller's.

An attractive rambler in the suburb of a California city. The farmer returns from a day on the farm. His children are playing badminton, croquet, or his wife is preparing for a cookout with a charcoal brazier in the back yard.

The average income and level of living in this section are high.

A final view of the map shows the whole U.S. with the regions we have been discussing clearly differentiated - a symbol in each characterizes differences. Then these symbols change into symbols of similarities.

While varied climates and crops have created differences in rural living, historical experience has produced many common features in American farm life.

Nothing shows this better than the annual agricultural fair.

Every year after the harvest, farmers in every region select samples of their choicest products for exhibition and prize competitions at the county or state fair.

The farm is a scene of lively activity and excitement as each member of the family prepares his entry for the week-long event.

A short sequence of intimate, human scenes, taken in close up as far as possible, shows the farmer preparing an outstanding example of crop or livestock production, the farmer's wife labelling some preserves, the son grooming a pet horse or hog, a daughter folding an attractive piece of handiwork such as sewing, embroidery or knitting.

Long shot of a large state fair in full swing. Then in the heart of the fair, the camera follows a farm family as it walks along. Pick up faces of family groups and individuals in various spots. Include negroes.

This is the outstanding occasion of the year in agricultural communities all over the nation for in most places farm families have been living on the land they worked in self-sufficient units rather than in villages as farmers do in most parts of the world. Social contacts have been limited.

Out of their frontier experience, American farmers have developed a common tradition of self-reliance and independence. In general, they are tolerant because of their diverse backgrounds.

Now, from all possible angles, the camera attempts to build up a total picture of the fair stressing human activities and reactions: - - - Exhibits of dairy products, crops (featuring major crops of the regions described earlier in the film: - corn, cotton, wheat, specialty irrigation crops etc.), dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, poultry being judged (ribbons pinned up), handicraft products, baked goods, floral arrangements (displayed by farm wives and daughters) . . boys with prize animals (Show cots beside the animals where the young owners sleep during the fair). . .events such as sawing, nailing and hog calling contests . . .watermelon or pie-eating contests among the children. . .pulling contests between teams of draft horses. . . demonstrations of various kinds of farm machinery and new farm practices. . .some midway concessions which are familiar to overseas audiences (such as ferris wheel, carousel). . .people eating hot dogs and hamburgers. . .people picnicking. . .folk dancing. . .(some day shots, some night shots).

At the fair the farmer finds out how well he's doing in comparison with other farmers.

Business and pleasure are combined. Prizes for crops and livestock raise the prestige of the farmer in his community and make it possible for him to command higher prices for his products.

While the children enjoy themselves, the father inspects the latest equipment and observes demonstrations of new farm practices.

The farmers themselves have invented many new ways of doing things. They have had to solve many of their own problems. The most successful ones are always on the lookout for better methods and machinery. These better ways spread through neighbors, through fairs like this, through publications and the agricultural extension services. As an example, you will find farmers in every locality using the same kinds of equipment for similar work. The American farmer welcomes change because it pays.

In whatever part of the U.S.A. he lives, he is steadily increasing his productivity.

Each farm family is now producing enough to feed itself and five other families.

Each farm worker is now producing enough food, fiber and tobacco to take care of himself and 17 other consumers.

In 15 years he has doubled his output.

There are over a million fewer farms and 8 million fewer people on farms today, but the production of corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, beef, milk, chickens and eggs has increased by billions of bushels, bales and pounds.

Much of this has been made possible by developments in industry such as fertilizer manufacturers, equipment makers, fuel processors and research in insecticides, new breeds of livestock and improved seeds.

Nearly all field work is now done by tractors. A majority of farm families have automobiles. A good percentage own trucks. Most dairy farms with over 6 cows use milking machines. Nearly all of the wheat is harvested by combines and a major portion of the corn by mechanical pickers. Much of this mechanization has been brought about by shortages or high costs of labor.

High productivity has made the United States the world's largest producer of many major foodstuffs. The crops from one acre in every 10 are exported.

Animation with original map to cover statistics. (?)

Yet, with one sixth of the cultivated land and one sixteenth of the population of Earth, the U.S.A. is not primarily an agricultural nation.

It takes only a small fraction of the population - 14% to produce this abundance.

A farm family seen at the fair now leaves it in their automobile.

We see them riding along Main Street of an attractive town. They pass the school, town hall and church, finally arriving at their farm. We get a final view of the farmstead, then as the family goes inside, the farmer turns and looks by the camera (presumably out over the landscape).

American farmers are proud of their record - proud of their part in helping feed the world today - but they are not boastful.

They know that their schools, their organizations, their churches -- all their basic institutions rest upon their stewardship of the soil.

They know that they are indebted to the rest of the world for most of their crops and that our people need things from other countries that cannot be grown here.

As they have exchanged information and experience with each other, they would exchange new products, crop seed, breeding stock and skills with farmers all over the world.

American farmers themselves are the best products of a wide open land.

THE END

